

Bloomington Democrat.

W. H. JACOBY, Editor.
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By W. H. JACOBY.

Democratic State Convention.

The Democratic State Convention, at its meeting on January 29th, at Harrisburg, adopted the following resolutions:

1st. That the regular Convention of the party, for nominating a candidate for the Supreme Bench, be held at Harrisburg, on the second Tuesday of June, 1867, at twelve o'clock M., and that said Convention be composed of the usual number of delegates.

2nd. In addition thereto, it is recommended to the Democratic Convention to be held at Harrisburg, on the second Tuesday of June, 1867, at twelve o'clock M., and that said Convention be composed of the usual number of delegates.

3rd. That the regular Convention of the party, for nominating a candidate for the Supreme Bench, be held at Harrisburg, on the second Tuesday of June, 1867, at twelve o'clock M., and that said Convention be composed of the usual number of delegates.

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Progress of Despotism.

The debate which preceded the passage of the military subjugation bill in the House of Representatives presents one or two features worthy of notice, as indicating, not only the infamous nature of the bill itself, but the spirit of despotism from which it sprang.

In directing attention to the brief passages quoted hereunder between Mr. ELDRIDGE who opposed, and Mr. BOUTWELL who advocated the bill, we do so not only to show that it abolishes trial by jury in ten States, but that the radical majority voted for it in the face of an admission that such was the case.

To enlarge upon the right of trial by jury, would be merely to express to what has often been said before, and to what every man who sets any value upon his personal freedom feels. It is the great as it is the dearest safeguard of constitutional liberty, and it will be to the future shame as it is to the present disgrace of the American name that Congress should have ever been controlled by a party sufficiently reckless and tyrannical to be willing to strike down an institution which was one of the earliest outgrowth of liberty itself.

But so it is. The bill being under consideration:

Mr. Davis, of New York, suggested the question as to whether the establishment of military governments in the South are consistent with the constitutional duty imposed upon Congress to guarantee to each State a republican form of government.

Mr. Boutwell said the question was a very proper one, and he would try to answer it before he took his seat.

Mr. Eldridge inquired of Mr. Boutwell whether the bill secured the right of trial in capital offences before juries?

Mr. Boutwell admitted that it did not.

Here was the fact openly admitted that this bill will substitute those dark engines of oppression and infamy, military commissions, in the place of jury trials. The history of the military commissions, with their spies, informers, and perjured witnesses, during the past three or four years, the crimes they have committed and led others to commit, is a record which it would be well, if it were possible, to blot out. They were palliated on the ground of "military necessity," but even that poor subterfuge is not now available. Nearly two years after the last gun in the civil war was fired, with no army in the field and not a shadow of resistance to the laws anywhere, Congress is found legislating to revive military commissions, and deprive eight millions of people of trial by jury. Mr. Eldridge might well ask the advocates of this despotism where they obtained their authority, creating it. We quote from the debate again:

Mr. Eldridge then inquired further, if that was not in direct opposition and violation of the Constitution, which provided that a party charged with crime should have the right to trial by jury, and the opportunity to confront the witnesses against him?

Mr. Boutwell replied that the power of Congress to suspend the privileges of the writ of habeas corpus was not confined to periods of rebellion or invasion. The power arose at such periods, but it did not cease to exist till, in the judgment of the law making power, the case of rebellion or invasion passed by, and no longer remained.

Mr. Eldridge understood Mr. Boutwell to claim that the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus justified the holding of a person charged with crime, and the trying him in a mode different from that required by law. He, himself did not so understand that as the effect of a suspension of the writ. He supposed that, even where the writ was suspended, the provisions of the Constitution still applied, which secured the right of a speedy trial before a jury.

Mr. Boutwell declined to yield further.

It is evident that Mr. BOUTWELL, bold and ingenious as he is, was unable to answer the objections raised by Mr. ELDRIDGE. — Mr. BOUTWELL'S declining to yield was only another way of admitting that the monstrous legislation he was advocating could not be justified on constitutional grounds. And yet when the party lash was applied, not more than a half-dozen Republicans had independence enough to manifest respect for liberty and law by recording their votes against an iniquitous measure intended for the overthrow of both. It would seem that with the passage of this military subjugation bill Congress will have done its worst. It can do little more to destroy freedom than abolish trial by jury and strip whole communities of the protection of civil law.

Political Degeneracy.

We live in an age of woful political degeneracy. The healthful teachings and wholesome admonitions of our Fathers have been sadly disregarded and grossly violated. Disregard of the time-honored precepts and fundamental laws of the country are mainly obliterated from the Statute books, and our Constitutions—the hope of the people and the bulwark of our liberties—are regarded by the parties now in power as obsolete dogmas and utterly repudiated.

This state of things is much to be deprecated. It was more easy to involve the country in ruin than it will be to redeem it from destruction. Whence shall we look for its redemption?

We appeal to the sober, second thought of the People. Change your rulers. Rid your Legislature and Congressional Halls of the present corrupt political fanatics with which they are cursed, and avoid that "sin which is a reproach to any people," and we shall then have a return to that "righteousness which exalteth a nation."

Where do we find Raymond, Doolittle and Dixon, on the reconstruction question? Voting along with the Radicals! It will be remembered that these men were the moving spirits in the great August Convention at Philadelphia. Raymond delivered the address on the occasion! How do those Democrats feel who were willing last fall to take these men into their ranks and make leading lights of them? How would they look now leading the Democracy?

A terrible instance of child abuse has come to light in Columbus, Ohio. A little girl seven years old has been systematically tortured by her father and stepmother. The little victim's hands have been nearly burned off by the fends, and she is a mass of sores from head to foot. Her skull has been so fractured by a blow. Some of the details are too horrible for relation. The parties have been arrested.

Murder in a Court Room.

A German named George Ellar was arrested in Philadelphia on a charge of committing a rape on Louisa Leis, a little girl thirteen years of age. The accused entered bail for his appearance at court, but absconded and forfeited his bail. About four weeks ago, Mr. George Hankin, who had bailed him, by some means ascertained that Ellar was in Harrisburg, went there and had him arrested and taken to Moyamensing prison. On the 20th the accused was to have been tried in the Quarter Sessions Court, in Philadelphia. The Bulletin says that at 10 o'clock the prison van was driven up, as usual, to the Sixth street entrance of the Court House, and one or two prisoners had been taken into the Court room and placed in the dock, and officer David Banks followed with Ellar in his charge.

The Court room was crowded as usual. Mrs. Leis and her daughter occupied seats upon the south side of the room. Leis was seated on the end of a settee near the western entrance of the Court room. As Officer Banks entered the door with his prisoner, Leis arose, and drawing a revolver from an inside pocket of his coat, he deliberately fired at Ellar. The shot took effect in the region of the heart, and the prisoner falling back into the arms of Officer Krizer, uttered the exclamations, "Oh! Oh! Oh!" The wounded man was at once carried into the office of the Clerk of the Court, where he died in a minute or two.

Leis made no attempt to escape. He was instantly seized by Mr. George U. Taylor, one of the tipsters of the Court. Officer Silverthorne wrested the pistol from his hands. It was a six-barreled revolver, and five loads remained in it.

The murderer was immediately placed before Judge Ludlow, who was upon the bench at the time, and he expressed a desire to make a full statement of the affair; but the Judge refused to listen to him, and after hearing evidence of the fact of the murder, he committed the accused to answer. He was immediately removed to Moyamensing prison.

Although Leis made no formal detailed statement, he admitted that he had committed the deed to avenge the wrongs of his daughter, that he had done it deliberately, and that he was prepared to take the consequences.

Ellar was a small man, not more than five feet six or seven inches in height, and about thirty years of age. He had a German cast of countenance, with rather high and broad forehead, a flat nose and large mouth, through which his teeth showed very plainly. His hair was thin and jet black. He wore a dark moustache and imperial. He was dressed very respectably in a complete suit of black. His face was neither repulsive nor prepossessing; it was such a one as is seen a hundred times a day upon the street, indicating neither a very bad nor an unusually good character. He was a tailor by trade.

Leis is also a German. He is about forty years of age, and he has the appearance of being a respectable man. He is a saddler by trade.

The Lady's Friend, for March, 1867.

"The Truant's Return," a beautiful Steel Engraving, leads off this number of the "Queen of the Monthlies." Then we have the usual elegant and refined Steel Fashion Plate, and a number of Patterns for Spring Dresses, Promenade Toilets, Caps, &c.

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